

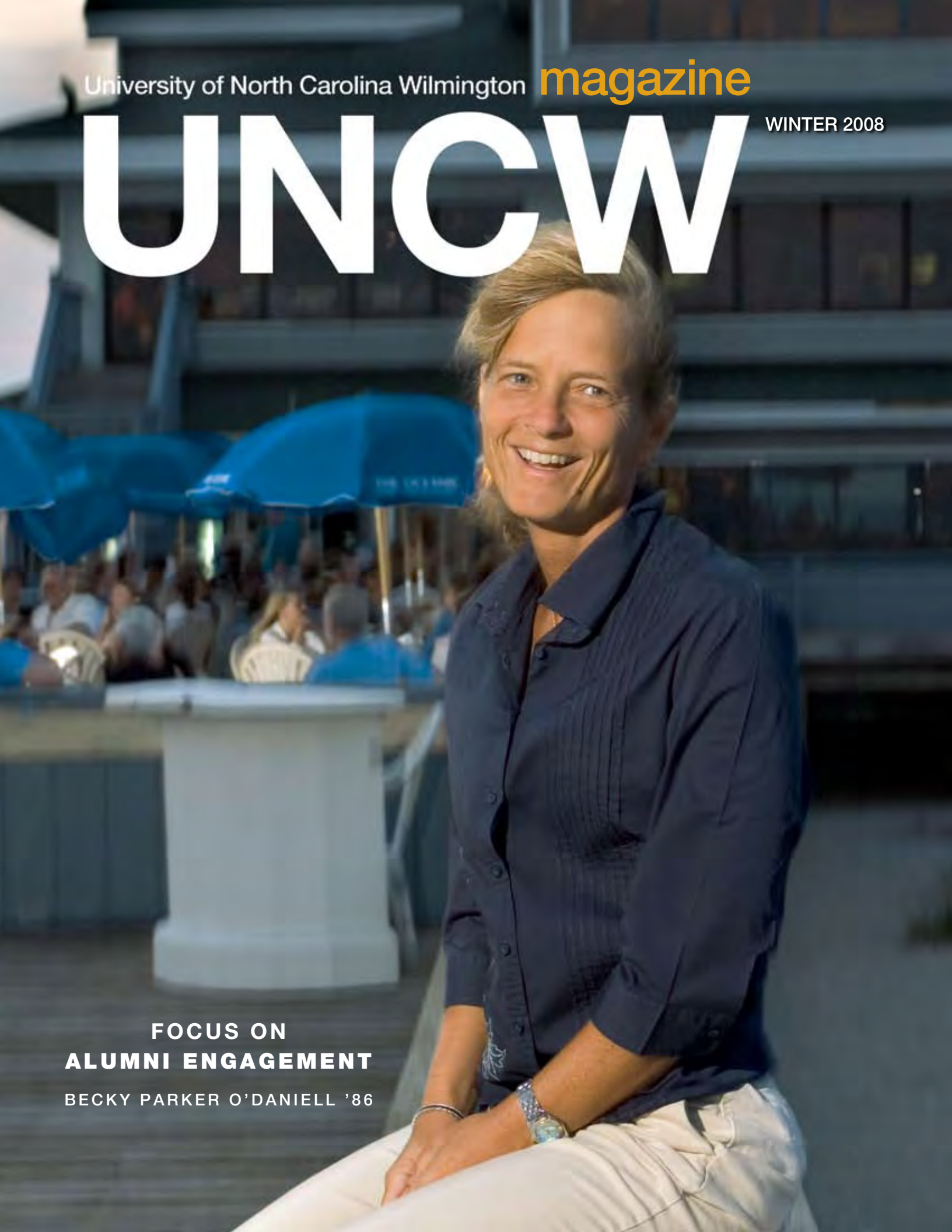
University of North Carolina Wilmington **magazine**

WINTER 2008

UNCW

**FOCUS ON
ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**

BECKY PARKER O'DANIELL '86



University of North Carolina Wilmington magazine

UNCW

Winter 2008
Volume 18, Number 1

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On the cover:

Becky Parker O'Daniell '86 is president and principle shareholder of Atlantic Quest Corp., parent corporation to four premier area restaurants. *Inc. Magazine*, recently cited Atlantic Quest among the 5,000 fastest-growing companies in the nation. O'Daniell is the exemplification of engaged Cameron School of Business alumni who share their expertise with students. On the pier at the Oceanic Restaurant in Wrightsville Beach, guests enjoy one of the finest ocean views on the eastern seaboard.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



Freshman Gogo Alata Lomo-David gets a "wave" flowing across Trask Coliseum as the Class of 2011 gathers for Convocation on Aug. 20. The students started their program at the UNCW Clock Tower before making the trek to Trask for greetings from university leaders. Photo by Jamie Moncrief

Dear alumni and friends



The holiday season always causes me to pause and reflect on the many things for which I am thankful, and at UNCW, we are thankful for so many things.

We are thankful that we have continued to excel as a university. We improved in nine out of 10 of our progress measures; the other one is holding steady. We moved up in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings as one of the South's top public master's universities. The quality of our student body also continues to improve – preliminary information indicates that for the first time in UNCW's history, the average SAT of our new freshmen puts us third in the UNC system, behind only UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State.

We are thankful for our donors who gave a record \$9.7 million last fiscal year, including four gifts of at least \$1 million each. In a *Star-News* article about our fundraising achievements, reporter Mark Schreiner brilliantly captured the impact of private giving: "Big donations strap booster rockets to the resources provided by state taxpayers."

We are thankful for our visionary founders and how their dream has flourished.

On Sept. 4, UNCW celebrated its 60th anniversary. With the help of Don Blake, student body president in 1946-47 when we were the Wilmington College Center of the University of North Carolina, we looked back at how far we have come. Dan Thorpe, 2007-08 SGA president, helped us envision our future. I invite each of you to view the celebration in its entirety at publicservicemedia.uncw.edu, and clicking on the 60th anniversary celebration.

Having been blessed with so much, it is important that we also give back. UNCW students, faculty and staff have an extraordinary record of public service that takes a variety of forms. Last year, our students completed more than 35,000 hours of volunteer community service hours, with an economic impact value of \$660,586. In September, our student chapter of Habitat for Humanity broke ground on the UNCW Habitat House. Our pre-vet students organized free rabies shot clinics. On a personal note, I am honored to chair the Cape Fear Area United Way 2007 campaign with a goal of raising \$2.3 million.

Throughout this issue, you will learn about the many impressive things happening at UNC Wilmington. As always, I encourage your calls, letters and e-mails, and appreciate your continued support for this great university.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemary DePaolo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosemary DePaolo
Chancellor

BACK TO SCHOOL

10,375 applications for fall 2007 admission

1,943 were accepted as freshmen

1157 average freshman SAT, the highest ever for UNCW and third highest in UNC system

3.74 average freshman GPA

11,911 students enrolled for fall 2007

1,200 graduate students, largest number ever enrolled

60 new faculty members hired from 1,500 applicants



Photo by Jamie Moncrief



Daniels is newest trustee

The UNCW Board of Trustees welcomed its newest member in August. Windell Daniels of Wilmington was appointed by the UNC Board of Governors to a four-year term ending in 2011.

Daniels is the president of United National Tours and Daniels Development Company in Wilmington. He is co-chair of the City of Wilmington's Ten-Year Homeless Plan, chair of Housing Economics Opportunities Inc., immediate past president of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and member of the Wilmington Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. He sponsors UNCW's annual Youth Entrepreneurship Program with the Cameron School of Business and the Upperman African American Cultural Center.

John A. "Sandy" McNeill Jr. of Whiteville was elected board chair, M. Terry Coffey of Wilmington was elected vice chair, and Wendy F. Murphy of Wallace was elected secretary.

New faculty members tour Sturgeon City in Jacksonville, N.C., during the second day of orientation as part of the 2007 Roads Scholars tour. The former waste water treatment plant complex now houses a fish farming demonstration site and educational center that serve the entire region.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



Learning beyond the classroom

Khaled Hosseini's *Kite Runner* knit new Seahawks together before they entered the classroom this fall.

As the focus of Synergy, the UNCW Common Reading Experience, this best-selling novel is enabling students to experience life under the Taliban rule in Afghanistan. Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo said, "Synergy supports the university's mission to foster intellectual curiosity, imagination, critical thinking and thoughtful expression."

Freshmen received a copy of the book during orientation and were expected to read it over the summer. It was integrated into Freshmen Seminar and various other courses. The university also hosted a cultural festival highlighting the music, food, dance and kite flying of Afghanistan; a showing of the Golden Globe-winning film *Osama*; a presentation by Azar Nafisi, acclaimed author of *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books*; and campus discussion groups and lectures.



Students line up to enjoy an array of Afghan treats during the multicultural Kite Runner festival in September.

Photo by Joy Davis

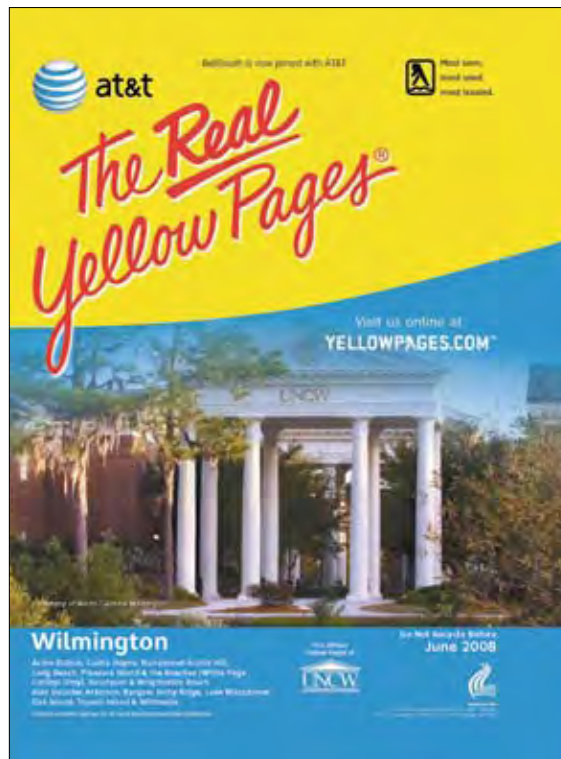


As part of the multicultural Kite Runner festival, senior James Yarley enjoys soaring to new heights.

Photo by Joy Davis

The university enjoys a strong partnership with AT&T. UNCW is featured on the cover of the new AT&T Real Yellow Pages, and the university hosted a reception for the new president of AT&T North Carolina, **Cynthia Marshall**, at Kenan House on July 26.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



AT&T directory showcases UNCW

In the latest in a series of collaborations with AT&T, UNCW is featured on the cover of the 2007-08 Wilmington edition of the Real Yellow Pages.

The university also is spotlighted inside the directory's advertisements, event listings and community information pages.

"We are pleased to feature UNCW on the first AT&T Real Yellow Pages directory for the Wilmington area," said Anne Cline, AT&T Real Yellow Pages Wilmington sales manager.

"The directory covers have a little different look with the new name and logo, and you can still count on the AT&T Real Yellow Pages as your comprehensive source of community information," Cline said.

"In addition to the honor of being selected for the cover of the inaugural edition of the directory, this is also a great way to showcase the university to more than 188,000 residents and businesses in New Hanover County and areas of Brunswick, Columbus and Pender counties that receive the directory," said Cindy Lawson, assistant to the chancellor for marketing and communications. The feature photo shows the columned area between Morton and Leutze Halls framed by pines trailing Spanish moss.

The UNCW section of the directory provides emergency information to a wide audience, including off-campus students, parents of area students and the community at large. The page includes the emergency information

hotline number, UNCW Police and Environmental Health & Safety contacts and Web sites for resources such as the university's hurricane plan.

The 2007-08 directory is one of many collaborations between the university and AT&T. This partnership is built on the strong connection between UNCW and AT&T, a generous supporter of academic, athletic and regional engagement programs across campus. AT&T's total contributions to UNCW exceed \$350,000, primarily for student scholarships and the Watson School of Education's annual Razor Walker Awards, presented to individuals who have made a significant difference in the lives of children statewide.

American Signal Corporation
workers install one of two
sirens at UNC Wilmington.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



Safety by the Numbers

One of UNCW's seven strategic goals is to **provide a safe campus for learning, living and working**. Each year, efforts to improve safety grow exponentially. Highlights include:

1 Public Information Emergency Response (PIER) System: This is an emergency information Web site (www.uncw-campus.info) on a separate server that is designed to function even if critical infrastructure on campus is destroyed. In certain emergency situations, it also may be utilized to communicate with UNCW constituents via tools such as e-mail, text messaging and more.

1 StormReady University: UNCW is the first and only university in the state to earn this National Weather Service designation. StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives during severe weather through better planning, education and awareness.

Step by Step: CREATING A PEDESTRIAN CAMPUS

Over the past two summers, concrete steps have been taken to develop UNCW's pedestrian campus.

According to the university's master plan, a pedestrian campus limits traffic and parking in the academic core and embraces alternative transportation by providing walkways, bike paths and mass transit.

"It's more than just using resources – land, parking spaces – wisely," said Sharon Boyd, associate vice chancellor for business services. "It is an opportunity to increase physical activity by improving biking and walking

conditions. It's improving safety and health while reducing congestion and traffic."

"'Walking campuses' correlate to better health and better academic performance. If students walk regularly and significantly, they are healthier and perform better," said architect Mark Miller in "What Campus Factors Boost Academic Performance?" (*The Greenville Gazette*, May 2006).

As funds allow, an integrated system of sidewalks, bike and multi-use paths is being developed.

- ▲ The Racine and Randall Drives intersection features raised crosswalks for traffic calming and better visibility for pedestrians and motorists.
- ▲ Sidewalks added along Wagoner Drive create a path of concrete and brick walks from Kenan Hall to Trask Coliseum.
- ▲ A multi-use path, with sidewalk and dedicated bike path, connects residential areas with the academic buildings along Reynolds Drive.

2 sirens, located on Westside and Schwartz Halls, were installed as part of the Seahawk Warning Siren System. They will sound in emergencies such as a tornado threat or a criminal incident of extreme nature.

5 satellite phones were added for communicating in a disaster when other phone and/or radio systems may be overloaded or unusable.

18 campus streets were named or re-named and **65 buildings** were addressed for the Enhanced-911 system. E-911 gives first responders critical location information.

30 sworn police officers, 15 security guards and numerous support personnel comprise the UNCW Police department.

83 sidewalk lights were improved for better night-time visibility.

89 emergency call boxes with direct access to UNCW Police are operational. More are under construction.

164 card readers were installed as part of the university's new secure door access system, which has the capability to instantly lock-down a building from a remote location.

183 security cameras were installed at Seahawk Landing and Seahawk Village apartments, and a comprehensive camera plan for all residence halls is being developed.

1,000 Take 5 candy bars were distributed at campus crosswalks to remind pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists to "Take 5 seconds to save a life."

2,500 ID holders, printed with emergency information, were distributed at the annual UNCW Involvement Carnival.

3,655 students, faculty and staff participated in safety workshops last year on topics ranging from active shooter protocols to self-defense, emergency preparedness and online security.

260,304 dollars were awarded to UNCW by the U.S. Department of Education for the Collaboration for Assault Response & Education (CARE) program.

888-657-5751 is the toll-free UNCW Emergency Information Hotline.

When you add it all up, these numbers are impressive. Yet they represent only a fraction of the university's efforts to create a safe campus that students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community can enjoy.

▲ A well-lit sidewalk between the Dobo Hall and University Apartments areas is under construction.

▲ Parking was added off-campus and in peripheral areas.

The City of Wilmington Cross-City Trail – from the Cameron Art Museum to Wrightsville Beach – will pass through the UNCW campus, making biking to campus more viable.

Another vital component of a pedestrian campus is a well-utilized mass transit system.

The Seahawk Shuttle continues to expand with routes bringing students to campus and moving students, faculty and staff around campus.

In fall 2006-07, 26.6 percent more people rode the shuttles than the prior year with a similar increase spring semester.

stories by Brenda Riegel

► Visiting campus soon?

Metered spaces have been added near popular visitor destinations such as the Cultural Arts Building and Randall Library.

Visitors may insert coins into meters for up to two-hour visits or purchase an all-day parking pass at the visitor parking booth, located at the entrance to the free visitor parking lot near Alderman Hall. Guests are encouraged to begin their visit at the booth so they can be informed of their parking options by the helpful parking attendant.

Squeak visualizes STEM skills

About 75 teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and 150 area middle and high school students will begin using “Squeak” programming language as part of an effort to infuse tri-county area school systems with a new teaching and learning program that promises to advance STEM skills.

The Squeak program was derived from the originators’ experience at Apple Computer and later at Walt Disney Imagineering, where they developed a similar type of program. Squeak is both a full-featured, object-orientated programming language and an interactive environment that permits novice users to model and visualize mathematical and engineering concepts in fun, easy-

to-manipulate, computerized digital images that mimic cartoon-like objects and figures.

UNCW undergraduate student Daniel Heywood developed a Squeak simulation that enables youths to virtually manipulate a canoe crossing a river. With Heywood’s instrument, students can visualize the concepts of relative motion and the Pythagorean Theorem, before they tackle the equations.

Participating students and teachers will spread their knowledge and skill in programming exciting, fun STEM experiments and learning models to their peers, expanding the delivery of these quality, hands-on learning opportunities throughout their school systems.

“We wanted to pique students’ interest in the STEM fields at a much earlier age. Children often have preconceived notions about math and science – they don’t like them,” said Shridar Narayan, chair of the Department of Computer Science and co-principal investigator of the grant.

Global warming can impact coastal Carolina economy

Two side effects of global warming – increased sea level rise and more intense hurricanes – have the potential to significantly impact the economy along the North Carolina coast, according to a study conducted in part by Christopher Dumas, associate professor of economics at UNCW’s Cameron School of Business.

Dumas teamed up with faculty from Appalachian State, East Carolina and Duke universities and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany to analyze data that indicate even a one-foot increase in sea level could move the shoreline along many N.C. beaches inland by as much as 100 feet. The study shows that such a dramatic change would adversely affect property values, tourism and business activity, among other sectors.

Dumas’ work specifically focused on the economic impact hurricanes could have on the coast if their intensity increases. His projections, estimating losses for businesses, farms and forests, are eye-opening:

- Business interruption losses in just four counties (New Hanover, Carteret, Dare and Bertie) due to increased Category 3 hurricane severity are projected to rise by \$34 million per storm event in 2030, and by \$157 million in

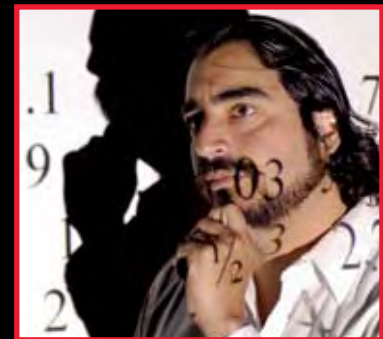
research

Squeak grant participants: Dan Heywood; Shridhar Narayan; Shelby Morge, assistant professor of education; and Gene Tagliarini, associate professor of computer science; and graduate student Lucas Gillispie.





Steven Emslie



Dale Cohen

Climate change and penguins

2080. With no increase in hurricane frequency, the projected cumulative losses from 2004 to 2080 due to increased Category 3 severity in these four counties amount to \$1.44 billion when regional economic growth is considered.

- Increasing storm intensity is expected to have serious impacts on agriculture. A Category 1 hurricane now causes about \$50 million in agricultural damage, a Category 2 about \$200 million, and a Category 3 about \$800 million, illustrating how significant an increase in hurricane intensity would be for this sector.
- Increased forest damage associated with an increase in storm severity from Category 2 to Category 3 is about 150 percent per storm event, or about \$900 million more in damages.

Dumas hopes the study will lead to additional research “to make hurricane evacuation more efficient and effective. If we can improve evacuation measures, we could reduce business interruptions and reduce the economic impact of storm events that may occur as a result of climate change.”

Remains of ancient Adélie penguin colonies show how climate change caused the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica to advance and retreat over tens of thousands of years. However, those same remains indicate that more than climate change has affected the penguins’ diet.

According to UNCW marine ornithologist Steven D. Emslie one abrupt shift occurred only about 200 years ago. Isotopic analysis of penguin eggshell pieces deposited and preserved in the frigid, dry environment over the last 45,000 years show a historic shift in prey coincided with the removal of baleen whales and krill-eating seals at the height of the commercial whaling industry of the 19th century.

In the cover story of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* July 10, 2007, issue, Emslie, with researcher William Patterson of the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada, posit that as humans vigorously hunted whales and seals, the penguins turned from fish to the newly abundant krill left behind.

Today, krill abundance and distribution are changing. Aggravated climate change in combination with fisheries that are harvesting large quantities of finfish and krill are already stressing the Adélie’s resources, and options for prey are diminishing.

“We need to take action now to maintain our planet’s biodiversity before it is too late. More sustainable management of our natural resources is key to this survival,” Emslie said.

.5, 50%, 1 in 2, 1/2

All of these numbers symbolize the same amount; however, many people have considerable difficulty converting the different representations of quantity in small numbers.

“Numerical relationships are important because we use them all the time to denominate the risk of disease, the probability of rain and in countless other ways,” said psychology professor Dale Cohen. However, “try to put 1 in 5 in a decimal form. It is very difficult.”

With a five-year \$691,000 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, part of the National Institutes of Health, Cohen is investigating how training and learning can affect an individual’s “number sense” of small numbers.

By understanding how these quantities are processed, visualized or related in the mind, educational techniques can be developed to help individuals acquire a more accurate sense of numbers.



Mehrtens



Allen

Mehrtens takes reins of athletics

After a whirlwind start, Kelly Landry Mehrtens is settling into her new role as director of athletics.

"I've spent many hours getting to know the area and the community. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated supporters who have given so much of their time and resources to building such a great university," she said. "Joining the UNCW family has been everything I thought it would be."

Mehrtens was hired in August after a national search that attracted 300 applicants. She left the University of Kansas, where she was associate director of athletics and senior women's administrator overseeing 15 men's and women's sports with operating budgets of more than \$15 million. She developed KU's Student-Athlete Development/Leadership Program and worked with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to raise \$1 million to help fund women's sports facilities.

As a student-athlete, Mehrtens had a successful collegiate career at the University of Alabama. She threw the discus on the women's track team, collected All-American honors in 1985 and made the World University Games and Pan American Teams in 1987. She finished fourth in the 1992 U.S. Olympic Trials.

Mehrtens earned a bachelor's degree in commerce and business administration from Alabama in 1986 and completed her master's degree in education from Illinois in 2001.

She serves on the prestigious NCAA Division I Management Council and the Big 12 Strategic Plan Review Committee and Championships and Awards Committee.

Winningest coach on campus

Winning. Whether it's in the pool or in the classroom, it's something to which longtime UNCW swimming and diving coach Dave Allen has grown accustomed.

Allen, who begins his 31st season as UNCW's swimming guru, welcomes strong teams to the Seahawk Natatorium once again in 2007-08. His men's squad, which has racked up an unprecedented six consecutive Colonial Athletic Association championships, will be favored once again. The women also return several strong swimmers and should be contention for their fourth title in mid-February.

Since Allen originated the program in 1977-78, the Seahawks have won a combined nine CAA crowns. He has

amassed a 349-241 dual meet record and been honored as CAA Coach of the Year nine times.

"The opportunity to build a program from scratch and see it grow to where it is today is most gratifying," Allen said. "The many wonderful student-athletes I have had an opportunity to work with and develop lifelong friendships with is something that you cannot begin to put a value on. I feel extremely fortunate and am very grateful to UNCW for giving me such an opportunity."

The veteran coach has produced some of the finest all-around student-athletes in the program's history, including 11 All-Americans and several Chancellor's Cup recipients. Four of Allen's pupils have been inducted into the UNCW Athletic Hall of Fame.



Members of the Fisher and Cavanaugh families were on hand as UNC Wilmington dedicated the new Herbert Fisher Fieldhouse.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



There's no place like home

UNCW's baseball program has a new home.

Groundbreaking for the Herbert Fisher Field House took place in May, and the ribbon cutting was held Oct. 19.

Construction of the \$1.2 million, 4,238-square-foot facility located across from Brooks Field was made possible by gifts from Herbert '53 and Sylvia Fisher '50, Dr. William P. Nixon Jr. and Bruce Cavanaugh '73.

The first floor of the new facility is anchored by a 600-square-foot locker area. The second level has a 350-square-foot team meeting room, offices for coaches, a study room with computer access and equipment area.

Men's basketball expects big turnaround

Following a topsy-turvy year when the margin for error was slim at best, UNCW men's basketball coach Benny Moss is optimistic the Seahawks will reclaim their perch atop the Colonial Athletic Association standings.

"We're expecting a big turnaround," said Moss. "We go into every year with similar goals. We want to win the regular season, win the tournament and go to post-season play. Those are our goals from day one. It's more realistic this year because we have a senior captain who is healthy, plus we've added some quality depth."

Without question, the return of 2006 CAA Tournament MVP T.J. Carter is huge for the Seahawks. After one year as "Coach Carter" on the bench, he's ready to take big-time shots and lead the squad.

"T.J. was able to see the game from a different perspective. Sometimes you learn by observing, watching and listening," Moss said.

However, the coach doesn't believe Carter is a "cure all" for all of last year's ailments.

Seven returning players, including fellow seniors Vladimir Kuljanin, Todd Hendley and Daniel Fountain, must shoulder their share of the load to get the Seahawks back in the thick of things. All three players made adjustments last year after Carter went down and that should benefit the club this season. Balance and depth should be the team's strengths, Moss noted.

"We have nine guys who are in their first or second year with the program. There's some inexperience there, but we're still better balanced overall," Moss said.

With the graduation of Temi Soyebo, junior college playmaker Marlo Davis and Chad Tomko will split time as the team's point guard. Carter, Fountain, Montez Downey, Josh Sheets and Darion Jeralds give Moss several options at the wing position.

Size and bulk characterize the front-court, where Kuljanin and Hendley, who both played overseas last summer, will be joined by freshmen Jayson Aycock, Dominique Lacy and Rob Sikes. The five players give the Seahawks one of their biggest frontcourts in years.

With the long-awaited return of Carter and a full complement of players, Moss feels like he's hit the lottery. It's time, he believes, for the Seahawks to cash in.

"We now have the depth we need to survive the unexpected things," he said. "It's going to take a more balanced approach this year. We have to be more consistent at both ends of the floor."

"We have to hold teams to around 40 percent shooting from the floor and use multiple options, inside and outside, to be more consistent. I think we're moving in the right direction."



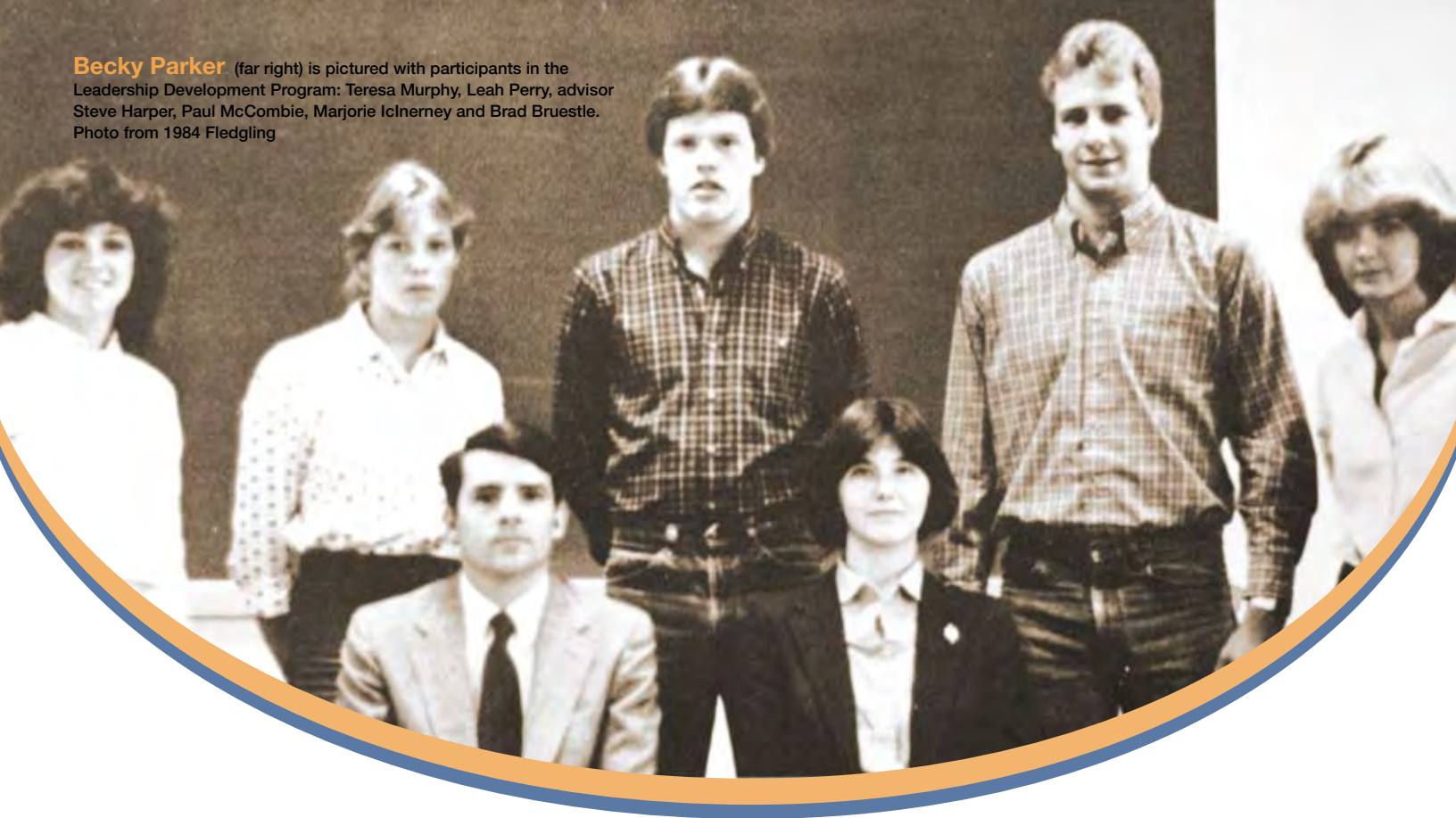
Like a full moon rising

UNCW's Cameron School of Business is emerging as one of the top business schools in the nation.* To a dynamic faculty committed to learning, Cameron adds engaged alumni and accomplished executives, passionate about business education, eager to mentor students in their areas of expertise.



Some moments never lose
their significance ...

Becky Parker (far right) is pictured with participants in the Leadership Development Program: Teresa Murphy, Leah Perry, advisor Steve Harper, Paul McCombie, Marjorie Iclnerney and Brad Bruestle. Photo from 1984 Fledgling



A question is raised, the right word is received – at just the right time – and a new door opens.

by Kim Proukou '06M

UNCW Cameron School of Business professor Stephen Harper remembers the day that former student **Becky Parker O'Daniell** came into his office with an idea.

“She told me, ‘I am interested in accounting. I love computers. I want to start my own business, and I would like it to be in a food-related area.’ At that time,” he said, “she had no clue she would ever become president and principal shareholder of Atlantic Quest.”

Although O'Daniell knew what she wanted to do, she was concerned about sacrificing her interest and talent in corporate accounting.

“I know,” Harper said, “and many others will attest to this, very few people run the numbers better than Becky.”

Harper, UNCW Progress Energy/Betty Cameron Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship, addressed O'Daniell's doubts and encouraged her to follow her vision.

Today, she is able to gratify her entrepreneurial spirit and put her accounting and financial training to full use as president of Atlantic Quest Corporation, parent corporation to four of the area's signature dining establishments: Oceanic Restaurant, Eddie Romanellis, Henry's and Bluewater.

Beginning with the Oceanic Restaurant, O'Daniell's pursuit of excellence propelled her to learn whatever was necessary to better serve and improve the company. As president, her leadership style has been defined by her ability to provide process improvement and opportunities that have empowered others to advance – employees, partners and shareholders alike.

O'Daniell points to team building, a core value of Atlantic Quest, as the driving force behind the corporation's ability to meet and exceed its goals. Yet, it cannot be denied that, within that ethic, her ability to get things done, solve problems and expand the capabilities of the company distinguishes her.

Becky P. O'Daniell '86 entered UNCW with the intention of graduating from the young Cameron School of Business, established in 1979.

"It was so different in 1982," O'Daniell said. "When I entered as a freshman, in the 'old days', there was no Cameron Hall; classes were in Bear Hall; that was it. The library, or quarter of a library, was so small compared to what we have now. The only thing that hasn't changed is that there was no parking then, either!"

"I remember this like I was still there. Walking by a bulletin board in Bear Hall was a notice to freshmen, inviting us to join the Leadership Development Program and participate in a luncheon series: Learn How to Be a Leader. Back then, I was an introvert and, well, actually I still am, but I thought to myself 'I need this'. There were six luncheons, one every week, for five to 10 students."

"The idea was Dr. Harper's," she said. "The professors at Cameron took an interest in me, gave me opportunities to test myself. I was encouraged to study and travel abroad; we took a trip to Europe. That was a turning point for me."

The independence and self-actualization claimed from her studies, travel and collaborative opportunities would eventually bring her back to live and work in the place she will always love and call home, southeastern North Carolina.

"This I learned from (Dean) Larry Clark, love what you do and do what you love," she said. "If you don't enjoy something, do something else. When I graduated, I left Wilmington for Dallas, Texas, where I was offered a position on an elite team of young professionals at EDS, Electronic Data Systems. But, it was not long before I realized it was too corporate for me."

"I returned to Wilmington, where I wanted to be. Then, it took me four jobs before I found what I wanted to do. I know that kids are afraid to do

that now, to search out and follow their own path, but they shouldn't be. Don't be afraid to change; to keep looking for what is right for you," she said.

At Cameron, theory is tested with practice.

"What distinguishes that school," O'Daniell said, "is that you are always using what you learn – applying and learning basic day-to-day things. Always, the real world is present in the classroom. You learn not only from professors who love the school and want you to succeed but also from those who are out there doing."

"This is the reason I return to speak at Business Week and other events and stay involved," she said. "I want to give back the experience that I got – helping students relate lessons learned in class to what's going on. Look at the impact Cameron has had on the region, the difference we've made," she said.

Fellow alumnus and Wilmingtonian Jay Taylor '78 serves with O'Daniell on the CSB Executive Advisory Board and the Entrepreneurship Advisory Board.

"Becky has had a positive impact on so many students," Taylor said. "She loves the business school, is enthusiastic about CSB and is truly grateful for the education she received. I can not say enough good things about Becky and feel very lucky to count her as a good friend."

To foster an enabling environment for private sector-led growth in the region, Cameron School of Business has developed a new Entrepreneurship and Business Development Program under the direction of Harper and other Cameron faculty.

The program prepares students for a number of career settings: starting or helping to start businesses; growing emerging businesses as a management team member, advisor, banker, investor or member of a family-owned busi-

ness; and corporate entrepreneurship – launching or developing new products and services – or as Harper explains, "helping established organizations become entrepreneurial."

At the end of the spring semester, O'Daniell, Taylor and two other entrepreneurs served as judges for the program's first annual Business Plan Competition. Student business plans are part of a year-long final project that tests students' ability to identify a growth opportunity and capitalize on it.

The entrepreneurs received a booklet of the students' plans two weeks ahead of the final presentations. O'Daniell took a red-eye from Las Vegas to get back in time.

"The students were so excited to have the chance to receive real-live feedback on their plans from us, who have learned the right way, as well as the wrong way, to do things," she said.

In 2004, as part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the Cameron School of Business recognized five outstanding alumni for their contributions to the school, their businesses and the community-at-large. Dean Clark noted that each of the recipients was not only a great individual but also a great achiever.

As O'Daniell approached the lectern to receive her Outstanding Alumna Award, she looked out at the audience. There, in the front row, she saw many of the professors who had taught her.

As an architect of structures built to last – not legacies – at that moment, O'Daniell's thoughts went characteristically beyond herself.

"I thought," she said, "There they are; still there, still turning out great students from Cameron."

* UNCW's Cameron School of Business made the 2008 Princeton Review list of "Best 290 Business Schools." The listing highlights the "real world" focus of the Master of Business Administration degree program.

Fostering a love for learning

Stories by Bethany K. Nuckolls '08 and Marybeth Bianchi

Multi-talented, self-possessed students who love learning. This is how Bill Atwill describes UNCW Honors Scholars Program participants.

"I'm not sure when they sleep," said Atwill, the program's associate director.

Eight of the 125 freshman enrolled this year are varsity athletes. Others are musicians, performers, world travelers and community volunteers. Classroom instruction is only one facet of their education.

"There are expectations that they volunteer, attend cultural events, become full participants in the community," Atwill said.

Now in its 13th year at UNCW, the Honors Program has provided 1,000 students with individualized, experiential learning opportunities that expose them to research and scholarship not commonly seen at the undergraduate level. Study abroad and service learning are also major components of the program.

Kate Bruce, program director, takes UNCW's number one strategic goal – providing students with a superior education – to heart. She encourages honors students to excel academically, as evidenced by their high grade point averages and their final research projects.

"It waves a flag for UNCW and shows that the Honors Program supports that goal," Bruce pointed out. "Honors encourages one type of enriched learning recognized by the university."

One type of learning may be a bit of an understatement.

Honors classes offer a wide-range of study from focused discussion-based seminars to interdisciplinary studies that are often cross-departmental. It culminates with a capstone project, which involves independent work, close interaction with a faculty sponsor and often publication and presentations at professional conferences.

"Honors allows UNCW faculty to experiment with innovative pedagogy that they can then use in other classes," Bruce said. She has taught such innovative courses herself, including an animal behavior class, titled Exploring Evolution, which incorporated a field trip to the Galapagos Islands.

The Honors Scholars Program is actively involved in recruiting new students for UNCW. For prospective and incoming freshmen, honors students lead informational sessions and tours.

Only 125 high ability students are accepted into the program each year. A majority will graduate with University Honors as well as Departmental Honors and go on to pursue advanced degrees, Atwill noted.

Featured in the most recent edition of *Peterson's Guide to Honors Programs and Colleges*, UNCW's Honors Scholars Program is dedicated to organizing service projects, sponsoring public lectures and placing honors students "in a variety of offices and departments on campus via work assist and work study."

As current president of the National Collegiate Honors Council, treasurer of the North Carolina Honors Association, past president of the Southern Regional Honors Council and director of the UNCW Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Bruce has not slowed her quest to advance UNCW's Honors Scholars Program.

She said that the program is studying whether to pursue a transition from Honors Program to Honors College to emphasize international honors experiences for students and early participation in research and scholarship.



CONFIDENCE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Amid the poverty, stench and oppressive heat of Haiti, **Jennifer Nomides '03** spent the summer of 2006 conducting research on local medical facilities and health programs.

She worked with Family Health Ministries, a non-profit organization based in Durham that partners with the Association of the Peasants of Fondwa (APF) which was instrumental in the establishment of a health clinic, community store and schools.

However, there is still much more work to be done, said Nomides, who is in her third year at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in Chapel Hill.

"There was no doctor in the clinic, only a Haitian 'nurse practitioner' whose training has been minimal," she said. Nomides credits her honors experience at UNCW for playing a role in preparing her for this experience in Haiti.

Wadson, far left, was one of Jennifer Nomides' first patients at the Fondwa clinic in Haiti. Also pictured is Widline, another child whose life was saved at the clinic.

Martyn Knowles '03 has visited Costa Rica and Nicaragua on medical missions providing health care in areas lacking adequate resources.

"It was the honors thesis that was the most helpful part of the program. Doing that thesis really aided me in learning how to actively learn, take the initiative and have the confidence to creatively design projects on my own, which is what I've been doing in Haiti."

"Back in the U.S., I am continuing to do what I can. I have the opportunity to work with the chief reproductive endocrinologist at Duke to do cervical cancer research in Haiti as part of my MPH (Master of Public Health) degree in the upcoming couple of years. I cannot put into words how excited I am about this research. Yet, I look forward to the time when I can return to Haiti for good."

NOT JUST A NUMBER

Martyn Knowles '03 knew he wanted a career in medicine since he was 13, when he shadowed a cousin doing a hospital internship in his native South Africa.

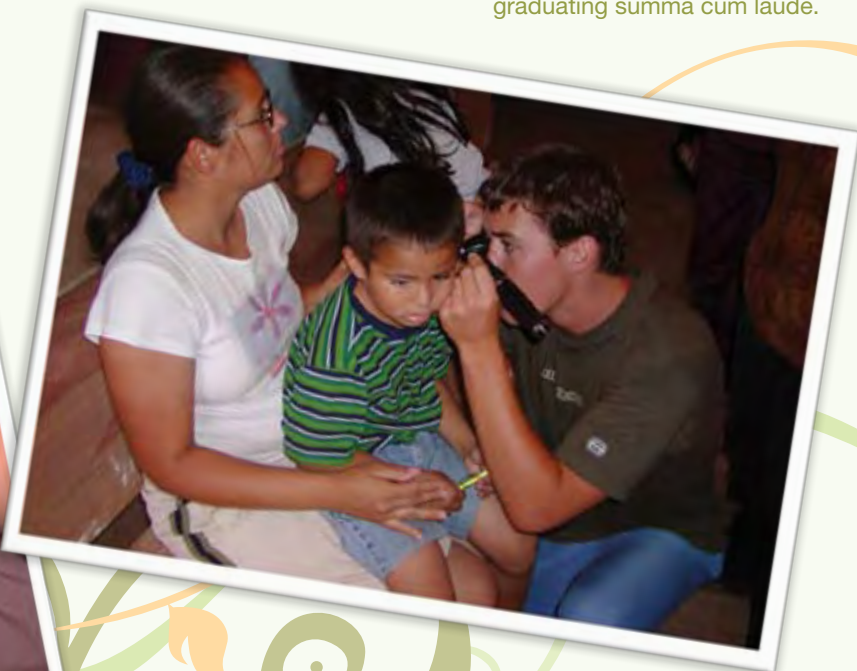
"I saw birth, death and everything in between. I knew at that moment there was nothing else I could see myself

doing. Every day in medical school and now in internship, I fall more and more in love with it," he said. As part of his residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, he participates in endocrine, trauma and pediatric surgeries.

The ambitious high school student was drawn to UNCW because he wanted a close relationship with faculty and individualized attention. "I did not want to go to a program that I was a number, one of 200 in a lecture hall," he said.

"The Honors Program taught me to think outside of the box. There is more to college than As and Bs. It's the lessons you learn that you carry with you the rest of your life. The Honor's Program provided a resource to pool creativity and gather together people interested in learning," he said.

By the end of his sophomore year, Knowles had been accepted to Wake Forest University School of Medicine, with the stipulation he complete his undergraduate degree a year early. He did that while managing to win multiple Chancellor's Achievement Awards and graduating summa cum laude.



Recognized this past year by several publications as a top public undergraduate institution, the university continues its pursuit to soar to even greater heights.

“The UNCW of today is a fantastic university,” said Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo in her state of the university address in October. “The momentum that propels us to soar higher derives from our students’ achievements, faculty and staff accomplishments and strong support from alumni, friends, trustees, volunteer board members and other donors.”

Seven strategic goals established a foundation for progress in 2003, each with measurable targets to indicate movement toward achieving the goal. Improvement has been shown in the each of 10 major progress measures:

- ★ **Student-faculty ratio** – improved from 18.2 to 1 in 2004 to 17.7 to 1 in 2006
- ★ **Student-staff ratio** – improved from 10.9 to 1 in 2003 to 9.9 to 1 in 2006
- ★ **Minority students** as a percentage of total enrolled – improved from 8.1 percent to 10.2 percent for 2006
- ★ **Freshman retention and graduation rates** – freshman retention rate declined from 85.7 percent in 2004 to 83 percent in 2006, but the six-year graduation rate increased from 61 percent to 65 percent
- ★ **Percentage of undergraduates housed on campus** – increased from 23.1 in 2004 to 32 percent in 2007
- ★ **Average faculty salary** – increased to \$65,408 for fall 2006
- ★ **Research and development expenditures** – increased from \$13 million in 2004 to \$18.6 million for 2006-07
- ★ **International enrollment and study abroad participation** – both showed an increase with 91 enrolled and exchange students in fall 2006 and 12.3 percent of students in 2005-06 studying abroad
- ★ **University endowment** – increased to \$50.8 million in 2007
- ★ **Alumni giving** – increased to 13.1 percent for 2006

“As UNC Wilmington soars to even greater heights in the future, we pledge to strengthen our commitment to providing undergraduates with an intimate learning environment that integrates teaching, research and service,” said Chancellor DePaolo. “We will challenge our graduate students, both at the master’s and doctoral levels, to engage in high quality scholarship in a culture that fosters innovation and meets the needs of our region.

“We will provide a secure and attractive campus, encourage intellectual and cultural diversity, promote regional engagement and value individual growth and development. In these ways UNCW will continue to prepare its graduates for a lifetime of learning, achievement and service for the betterment of self and community.”

Wilmington College’s first student body president Don Blake listens as current SGA president Dan Thorpe greets UNC Wilmington alumni, faculty, staff and students gathered outside the Fisher Student Center for the 60th anniversary celebration of UNCW. Photo by Jamie Moncrief

60



and Soaring

From its establishment as Wilmington College in 1947 with 238 students to its record-setting enrollment of nearly 12,000 in 2007, the University of North Carolina Wilmington has transformed the lives of more than 44,000 students over the past 60 years and has had major impact on the community it serves.



This year's freshman class has the highest average SAT score in the university's history, making it the third highest in the UNC system behind UNC Chapel Hill and NC State University.

UNCW's faculty, staff and students have a half-billion dollar economic impact on the Cape Fear region.

In the 2008 edition of "America's Best Colleges" published by *U.S. News & World Report*, UNCW was ranked the sixth best public regional university in the South. Among the 119 public and private universities in the South that provide a full range of undergraduate and master's level programs, UNCW improved its overall ranking to 14th.

For the fourth consecutive year, UNCW received the "Best in the Southeast" and "Best Value" designations by *The Princeton Review*.

UNCW is one of only four North Carolina public universities included in *Peterson's Competitive Colleges 2008: Top Colleges for Top Students*.

In 2007-08 UNCW students completed more than 35,000 hours of volunteer community service hours with an economic impact value of \$660,586.

Donors:

The wind beneath our wings By Andrea Weaver

For the first time in its 60-year history, the University of North Carolina Wilmington received five donations of at least \$1 million each within one year.

From July 2006 through June 2007, the university's overall fundraising totaled approximately \$9.7 million, including four gifts of at least \$1 million. In August 2007, the university received another million-dollar donation.

"The donors of these impressive gifts were not thinking about making history at UNCW with contributions. Instead, they simply wanted to make a real difference in the lives of our students and in the future of our region and the state of North Carolina," Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo said.



Student Excellence

Youth Entrepreneurship Program inspires young donor

Personal experience as a young entrepreneur inspired Euran Daniels to become involved with the Cameron School of Business Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), which helps students ages 12-16 learn to start and manage a business in a fun environment.

Daniels founded Reflections Video at age 10: "I started out small, very small. I had one camera, one stand and one light. I did weddings, fashion shows and birthday parties."

His business grew and, at age 15, he was featured on Black Entertainment TV as one of the top 10 teens in the nation. He is now president of Daniels Production Company, LLC.

Following his experience with YEP, he established the Euran S. Daniels Scholarship to assist incoming freshmen who are interested in pursuing a degree in business. A merit scholarship, applicants must meet a minimum 3.6 high school G.P.A. to be considered. Daniels

Left, program supporter Euran Daniels speaks to students as they present their business plans at the Cameron School of Business Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief

Right, Mike Waddell, professor in the Department of Music, stands for a solo during the Cape Fear Jazz Orchestra benefit concert for the Department of Music.

Photo by Laura Johnston

hopes that some of the YEP participants will apply for the scholarship and attend UNCW.

"This scholarship supports diversity and academic merit, two areas in which I strongly believe," he said. "These two initiatives have been key components of my success, and they are key initiatives for the university."

Scholarship supports international experience

Edward Doran and son Guy established the Stella Doran International Studies Scholarship, the first individually funded, endowed scholarship given to the Office of International Programs to offset students' study abroad costs.

The late Stella Doran was "a woman of the world," her husband said. "She believed that you have to go to a country to really experience it."

The scholarship is open to juniors and seniors with at least a 3.0 grade point average in any major. Junior Amanda Case of Candler, N.C., is the first recipient. She is enrolled at the University of Sterling in Scotland for the fall semester.

Overall Excellence

Life insurance gift to benefit UNCW

Marvin Robison '83 and his wife Margaret, who worked at the university for 14 years, donated a gift that will eventually provide UNCW with \$100,000.

They made UNCW the beneficiary of a second-to-die life insurance policy. They are gifting the premium to the UNCW Foundation, a non-profit organization that supports the university. They receive a tax deduction for the premium and, in the future, the policy's proceeds will not be counted as part of their estate for tax purposes.

"The university gave me an education and an opportunity to prepare myself for a life that has been successful and fulfilling. But even if I were not an alumnus of UNCW, I would recognize its importance to our community," said Robison, past chair of the UNCW Alumni Association, former president of the Seahawk Club Board of Directors and a former Foundation Board member.

Excellence in Regional Engagement and Outreach

Gift supports learning for a lifetime

The Osher Foundation gave \$1 million to UNCW to endow the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which provides non-credit university courses, seminars, lectures, travel excursions and other educational opportunities to adult learners. UNCW is the only public university in the state with an OLLI.

The foundation also provided a \$50,000 grant to fund the institute's programs until the endowment's investments generate income. The foundation previously contributed \$100,000 both in 2005 and in 2006 to establish the OLLI.

To learn more about programs offered by the Division for Public Service and Continuing Studies, visit www.uncw.edu/dpscs.

Gift to enhance economic services

Progress Energy and the Cameron School of Business have teamed up to enhance research conducted by the Center for Business and Economic Services (CBES). Progress Energy is the first lead partner for the CBES, providing \$35,000 in support for the center's programs and services. The CBES

compiles and analyzes regional economic data. The center also hosts the annual UNCW Economic Outlook Conference and issues quarterly updates about the local economy.

Computer day camp for at-risk youth

GE Hitachi (GEH) Nuclear Energy awarded \$50,000 to the Cameron School of Business for a computer day camp that helps area eighth and ninth graders develop technical skills essential for their success in high school, college and beyond.

Faculty Excellence

Jazz professorship named for Kenan

UNCW's Department of Music has its first \$1 million professorship.

A \$667,000 grant from the C.D. Spangler Foundation of Charlotte, matched with \$333,000 from the State of North Carolina's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund, established the Thomas S. Kenan III Distinguished Professor of Jazz.

It will be used to recruit an acclaimed jazz performer and teacher specializing on a jazz rhythm section instrument, such as piano, bass or drums. Over the past 15 years, the jazz program has received accolades on national and international levels for the high performance quality of its ensembles, as well as the quality and talent of individual students.

The naming honors Tom Kenan and his family's connections to, and long-time support of, UNCW.



Tom Kenan



Wise Alumni House

✿ RENOVATED FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY ✿

Wise Alumni House is wearing its age well thanks to extensive renovations completed in October.

With fresh coats of paint throughout the first floor, refinished hardwood floors, a repaired stained glass window, a new slate roof and revised décor, the historic home is ready to shine for the next 100 years.

Constructed in 1908-09, Wise House exemplifies neoclassical revival style. The family of Jessie Kenan Wise donated the house to the university

in 1968, and it has served as the UNCW Alumni Association headquarters since 1994, a year after the organization committed \$400,000 to preserve and update the house.

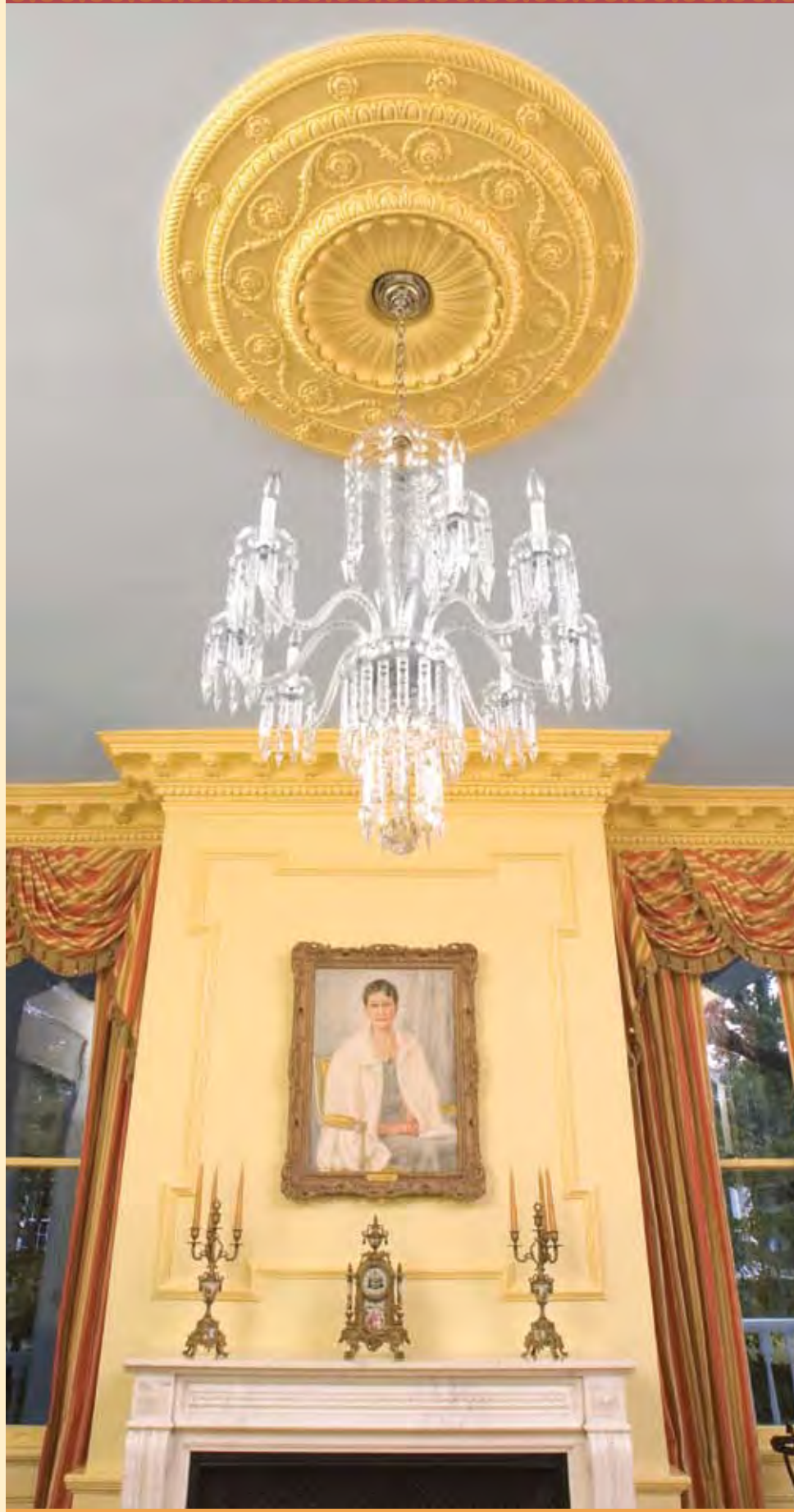
Plans to celebrate the house's centennial are being developed. Learn more about the house's history and architecture online at www.uncw.edu/alumni/wisealumnihouse.htm.

The William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust provided \$197,500 for the interior renovations. In addition,

members of the Kenan family donated furniture and provided an interior decorator's services to the university.

UNCW invested \$250,000 to replace the slate roof and the support structures under it. In addition, Wilmington resident Janice Kingoff '77 provided a gift in memory of her husband Bill to fund the repair of the stained glass window that illuminates the foyer and staircase.

To take a virtual tour of the renovated Wise Alumni House, visit www.uncw.edu/wisehousetour.



Robert McInturf

is UNCW's new director of alumni relations.

He will be responsible for the management of the alumni office and will coordinate educational, service and social activities for the UNCW Alumni Association, which has about 44,000 members.

Before accepting the position at UNCW, McInturf was the director of alumni affairs at the University of West Alabama where he devised and implemented an integrated marketing and communication plan for the university's National Alumni Association that increased membership by more than 400 percent and doubled the number of active alumni chapters.

His previous experience includes serving as interim director of marketing and communication and assistant to the president at West Alabama. McInturf holds a master's degree in advertising and public relations from the University of Alabama and a bachelor's degree in history from West Alabama.

"I look forward to working with UNCW's dedicated alumni to enhance the programs and services that connect them to the university, and to create new traditions for celebrating their alma mater and its continued success," McInturf said.

Wise Alumni House music room features a portrait of Jessie Kenan Wise that is on loan from the Kenan family.

Photo by Laura Johnston



Meredith and Ray Morgan '82

are greeted by Sammy C. Hawk at the UNCW Alumni Association's Legacy Luncheon in August. The association annually recognizes freshmen whose parents or grandparents are UNCW alumni.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



S.T.A.R.T.

The Seahawk Territory Alumni Recruitment Team (S.T.A.R.T.) is a partnership between the UNCW Office of Admissions and the UNCW Alumni Association that gives alumni volunteers an opportunity to assist with student recruitment efforts in their area. Alumni are able to share their own undergraduate or graduate experiences while meeting prospective students and their families and helping their alma mater. More information is available online at www.uncw.edu/alumni/START.htm.

Celebrate the Seahawks

The UNCW Alumni Association invites alumni and friends to Tealgate – Seahawk style – with food, games and spirit-filled fun.

Tealgates start two hours before the tip-off of men's basketball games on Jan. 26, Feb. 9 and March 1 at Trask Coliseum. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 6-12; children under 6 are admitted at no cost. Admission includes food and beverages, but not game ticket.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.uncwalumnitickets.com.

Get on board

The UNCW Alumni Association is seeking alumni to help its board of directors and its six committees. Volunteers are needed for the following areas:

- Student affairs and young alumni
- Recruitment and retention
- Finance
- Special events
- Chapter development and promotion
- Awards and scholarships

The association's mission statement and strategic plan can be viewed at www.uncw.edu/alumni. For more information, send an e-mail to alumni@uncw.edu or call 910.962.2682 or 800.596.2880.

AAGA

If you would like to volunteer with the African American Graduate Association, please contact Enoch Hasberry '98 at ehasberry@yahoo.com.

Cameron School of Business

Members of the CSB Alumni Chapter had their first meeting of the academic year Oct. 20 at Wise Alumni House. They discussed the strategic planning process, events for the spring semester and nominations for CSB Alumni of the Year. Chapter members attended the CSB Economic Outlook Conference on Oct. 9. Business Week will be Feb. 25-29 and will include the CSB alumni mixer.

Cape Fear

A field of 118 golfers participated in the 14th Annual Cape Fear Golf Classic in April. UNCW golfers raised more than \$5,500 which was donated to the Gerald Shinn Scholarship. Hoping to build on this success, the golf committee invites alumni and friends interested in serving on the 15th Annual Cape Fear Golf Classic Golf Committee to e-mail co-chairs J.D. Terry '99 at jterry@firsthorizon.com or Jason Brett '99 at jbrett@firsthorizon.com. On Sept. 29 chapter members attended the "Downtown Shakedown" to promote the alumni association. For more information on the Cape Fear Alumni Chapter, contact Kristen "Doc" Dunn '99 at Kristen@crrhomes.com.

Communication Studies

Forty alumni attended the Communication Studies Chapter social on Sept. 7 at the Music for Mayfair summer concert which featured the Schoolboys, whose members include communication studies faculty. Communication Studies Day 2008 will be held Friday, March 28. To volunteer with the Communication Studies Chapter or to sign up for Communication Studies Day, please contact Steve Nelson '06 at smnelson4511@yahoo.com.

Crew Club

Crew Club alumni and students will gather March 15 for their annual reunion culminating with a dinner at Wise Alumni House. Please contact Jennifer Triplett '97 at jltriplett@gmail.com or Curt Browder '92 at browderwilliam@yahoo.com if you would like to be a part of this annual event.

Maryland

A group of dedicated alumni gathered in June at Porters Pub & Grille in historic Federal Hill. Members discussed the upcoming social gatherings as well as the 2008 schedule. Please contact Jeff Lee '02 at Jeff@leeFinancialAssociates.com if you would like to join the fun in the Baltimore area.

School of Nursing

All School of Nursing alumni are invited to attend a luncheon at noon Saturday, Feb. 9 in the Fisher Student Center Clocktower Lounge. Dean Virginia Adams will share news about the groundbreaking celebration for the new School of Nursing building. If you would like to volunteer for the School of Nursing Alumni Chapter, please contact Nikki Pitts '98 at nikkimpitts@yahoo.com.

Richmond

Alumni and friends should mark their calendars now for the CAA Men's Basketball Tournament March 7-10. The alumni association will partner with the Seahawk Club for the annual Seahawk Club "Tent Party" at the Richmond Embassy Suites. For more information or to make a reservation for the party, contact the association at alumni@uncw.edu.

Wilmington College

Seventy-five Wilmington College alumni met in June for a luncheon and trolley tour of campus. Tyrone Rowell, assistant to the chancellor, and student ambassadors led the tour, highlighting all of the new buildings and improvements on campus. Chancellor DePaolo greeted them at lunch, expressing her gratitude for their continued support of the university. Wilmington College alumni meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month at Jackson's Big Oak Barbeque. For more information, contact Jim Medlin '52 at 910.791.5259.

Seahawks on the road

A growing number of alumni in North Carolina are taking their Seahawk pride on the road and supporting student scholarships.

Seahawk license plates are \$25 and can be personalized for \$45. For each plate, \$15 of the application fee supports the alumni association's scholarship program, which awards 15 scholarships of \$1,500 or more to undergraduate and graduate students.

Alumni who live in Maryland and Virginia are also interested in starting customized UNCW license plate programs. More information can be obtained by sending an e-mail to alumni@uncw.edu.

For Maryland residents, a one-time \$50 tag fee would be charged in addition to the regular motor vehicle fee; \$25 would be returned to the UNCW Alumni Association to support undergraduate and graduate scholarships. More information can be obtained by contacting chapter president Jeff Lee '02 at jeff@LeeFinancialAssociates.com.



www.uncw.edu/alumni

Chair

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jason@pathfinderinvestments.com

Secretary

Melissa Blackburn-Walton '87910.350.3145
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Treasurer

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Past Chair

Donis Noe Smith '86, '94M910.792.0805
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James Carroll '90919.781.9470
Cara Costello '97, '03M910.772.6993
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Watson School of Education Chapter

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Past Chair's Council

Tom Lamont '80910.392.3033
Tom.lamont@boysandgirlshomesofnc.org

ALUMNOTES



Brown



Swatzel



Minella



Boa

1960s

Libby Robertson Brown '66 is the author of *Making Waves*, a non-fiction account of her life as a successful serial entrepreneur. Libby is a co-founder of This End Up Furniture Company and owner of Fowl Cay in the Bahamas. Her book's Web site is makingwavesbook.com.

Elaine Blackmon Henson '67 is the author of *Carolina Beach*, part of Arcadia Publishing Company's Postcard History Series. Elaine and her husband, Charles '76, reside in Wilmington. Charles is the owner of Charles Henson Painting.

1970s

Rev. Richard H. Powell Jr. '72 was called as senior pastor/head of staff to Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Helotes, Texas.

N.C. District Court Judge **Rebecca W. Blackmore '75** was appointed to family court for District 5.

Pamela Gravino Jones '75 was promoted to senior vice president of mortgage operations with East Carolina Bank in Wilmington.

Billy Peterson '77 was named general manager of the Renaissance Club at Archerfield, a private club neighboring Muirfield in Scotland. The club is set to open in April 2008.

A teacher and curriculum support specialist at Shallotte Middle School and Watson School of Education faculty member, **Debbie Bowman Lemon '78** is enrolled in the doctoral program in educational leadership at UNCW. Her husband **Ed '66** and son **Trey '01** work with Herff-Jones. Daughter **Yarbi Lemon Petty '99** and her husband Doug had a daughter, Emily Elizabeth, on Feb. 28, 2007. Daughter **Chrissy Hewett Flanigan '02** and her husband **Capt. Brian Flanigan '01** live in Navarre, Fla., where Chrissy earned a master's degree in accounting, and Brian serves with the U.S. Air Force.

Rev. Daniel Sonnenberg '78 is pastor of worship and community at Myrtle Grove Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Fla. His wife **Elizabeth Stokley Sonnenberg '80** is in sales with Coastal Marketing.

1980s

Linda Baddour '80, '96M was appointed executive vice president and chief financial officer of PRA International.

Velva Jenkins '80 was appointed dean of continuing education and workforce development at Brunswick Community College.

Tom Swatzel '80, chairman of the Georgetown County, S.C., Republican Party and a former Georgetown County councilman, was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to South Carolina's seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He is the president of Capt. Dick's Marine.

Guy Pushee '81 was featured in the Aug. 12, 2007, "It's a Living" photo published in the *Wilmington Star-News*. Pushee is a jewelry designer and the owner of Tavernay's Jewelers.

Scott Absher '82 is the principal of North Moore High School.

Kimberly Norman Mallin '83, the physician-owner of Flowertown Family Physicians in Summerville, S.C., had several articles published in *Sasee*, *Daniel Island News*, *Running Times* and *AA Grapevine*. She is a winner of the Medical Economics Doctors Writing Contest and Best of Issue-Nonfiction in the S.C. Writers Workshop Anthology, *Catfish Stew 2006*.

Beth Wheat Baldiga '86 earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Excelsior College and her national certification in school nursing.

Steven R. Neher '87 is a criminal investigator/special agent for the Department of the Navy in Brunswick, Ga. He spent five months in Iraq supporting the U.S. Marine Corps.

Robert "Tre" Walton '87 was appointed director of academics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Ramstein, Germany. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in transportation and logistics.

Jonathan R. Babson '88 is senior national sales manager with R.H. Donnelly Inc. in Cary.

Mark W. Maultsby '89 works with alternative programs with Wake County Public Schools and is pursuing a Master of School Administration in Educational Leadership.

1990s

Margaret Eaddy Taylor '90, '03M was named 2007-08 Teacher of the Year for North Duplin Elementary School.

G. Erickson Wheelis '91 of New Bern is a small animal veterinarian who released a CD titled *Follow*. His compositions can be heard on iTunes, Napster and Rhapsody. His Web site is www.ericwheelis.com.

Kelly Andrews '92 is the principal at Lee Woodard Elementary in Black Creek, N.C.

J. Michael Boa '92, director of communications and marketing for the Casualty Actuarial Society, earned the Certified Association Executive credential.

The author of *A Major League Guide to Amateur Baseball*, **Trent R. Mongero '92** was hired by Sterling Publishing to expand the 250-page manual into three multi-media teaching books with instructional DVDs. The manual will be released nationally in January 2009. This fall, Mongero filmed portions of the project at Brooks Field. He is a teacher and head baseball coach at North Hall High School in Gainesville, Ga. His wife **Sonya Mabry Mongero '95** is a middle grades teacher with Hall County Schools.

Al Pollard '92 of Plano, Texas, is a field recruiter for JC Penney.

Scott Kennedy '93, a courier for Carilion Labs in Indian Trail, N.C., is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in meteorology at UNC Charlotte.

Mike Shaw '93 is the boys' basketball head coach at Sanderson High School in Wake County.

Andrea Bates '94 is a partner with Woodcock Washburn LLP in Atlanta where she works as a transactional attorney.

Samuel Bobbitt '94 teaches and coaches the cross country and track teams at Laney High School in Wilmington.

Shelley Preslar '94 was appointed director of operations for the Southeast region for Invenys Validation Technologies at Research Triangle Park.

Henry Rice '94 was named 2006-07 Principal of the Year. He is the principal of Pamlico County Middle School.

Richard Whitlow '95 of Zebulon was promoted to an investigator with the Wake County Sheriff's Office. **Susan Rivinius Whitlow '95** enjoys home schooling the couple's two children, Matthew, 11 and Julia, 9.

Tina Tighe '95 of Niskayuna, N.Y., was promoted to vice president of the Ayco Division of Goldman Sachs. She earned a juris doctorate from Albany Law School and was admitted to the New York Bar Association.

Melissa K. Batchelor '96, '00M, a lecturer in the UNCW School of Nursing, is enrolled in the nursing doctoral program at UNC Chapel Hill.

Gloria Sellers Foss '97 was named 2007 Teacher of the Year at Supply Elementary School where she teaches third grade.

Rhonda Gregware '96 earned a master's degree in elementary education from UNCW in 2007. She is a teacher with Onslow County Schools.

Matt Jacobs '97 is the boys' basketball head coach at East Davidson High School.

Brian Jackson '97 is the head coach of the men's tennis program at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Ore. He also is an assistant professor in the exercise science department and a member of the Oregon and American Alliances for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and the Association of the Advancement of Applied Sport Psychology. He and his wife **Laura Jackson '98** live in Forest Grove.

Gina Morris Stinson '97, '01M earned a Master of Business Administration degree from East Carolina University in May 2007. She is a psychologist with Norwich Therapy Associates.

Jennifer Woodhead '97M was promoted to dean of arts and sciences at Brunswick Community College in August 2007.

Amanda Hiatt McAnally '98 is the director of public information with the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta.

Rolie "Andi" Webb '98 is a Title I remediation teacher for grades 3-5 in Fayetteville.

Elizabeth Futrell '99 completed coursework for a master's degree in English education from the School for International Training in Vermont. She is writing her thesis and teaching English as a second language with Durham Public Schools.

Jason Loftus '99 is a casting director with Heery Casting in Philadelphia. His credits include *National Treasure*, *Invincible*, *Rocky Balboa*, *Shooter*, *The Woodsman*, *Shadowboxer*, *Cold Case*, *Hack*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* and *What Goes On*.

Jimmy Tate '99, '01M was appointed to the Pender County Board of Commissioners in April 2007. He is the assistant to the president at James Sprunt Community College in Kenansville.

David C. Unsicker '99 was appointed vice chairman of the board of The First Tee of Wilmington, a program which uses the game of golf to promote character development. David is the general manager and director of golf at Echo Farms Golf and Country Club. **Claudia Royal Unsicker '91** is a purchasing agent with Southport Boatworks.

2000s

Victor Ebong '00 is an assistant coach at Wright State University.

Ursula D. Martinez '01 works for the Peace Corps with youth development in Honduras. She has a Master of Arts degree in reading education from East Carolina University.

Erin K. Magee '01 was promoted in June 2007 to associate environmental engineer with Northrop Grumman in Newport News, Va.

Brooke E. Abraham '02M is a senior accountant with Trinity Accounting Group in Athens, Ga. She is a member of the N.C. Association of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Institute of Management Accountants.

Joyce Beatty '02M, principal at Belville Elementary School, was named 2006-07 Brunswick County Principal of the Year. She was featured in the fall 2007 issue of *North Brunswick Magazine*.

Ashley Craven '02, who teaches in the academically and intellectually gifted program with Davidson County Schools, received her national board certification and was selected Wallburg Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Anthony Deninno '02, president and founder of Symmetry Event Solutions Inc. (symmetryeventsolutions.com) in Brooklyn, N.Y., serves on the board of directors of the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund Inc.

Luisa C. Martinez '02 is an enrollment services coordinator at University of North Florida. She has a Master of Public Administration degree from UNC Pembroke.

Dave Minella '02 won first place in the men's lightweight division at the International Natural Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation Atlantic Coast Natural Bodybuilding Championships in High Point. He is the public relations/advertising manager for ShopBot Tools in Durham.



Medlin



Gillings



Mooza



Lewis

Lee Moon '02 is an assistant basketball coach at Fresno State University.

Terrance Murphy '02 of St. Louis, Mo., is a credit analyst with the healthcare group of US Bank.

Elizabeth Clauss '03 is a 2007 graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Helen Carter Esch '03 is pursuing a Ph.D. in biological oceanography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Program.

Sherrita L. Hedgepeth '03 completed Army basic training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

Brandy N. Penny '03 was appointed grade level chair for first grade at Smith Elementary School in Raleigh.

Jessica H. Warren '03 is a pre-major advisor and coordinator of internships and career services at North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Christine Cathcart '04 is an internal auditor with MTV Networks in New York, N.Y. She received internal auditor certification in May 2007.

Rebecca D'Amico '04 is an account executive with Ein Communications in Washington, D.C.

Brian D. English '04 is a senior Web developer with Spence Hackney Designs in Wilmington.

Jeff Lennox '04 is a news reporter with WESH 2 News in Winter Park, Fla.

Heather R. Mosier '04 is enrolled at UNCW in the Master of Arts degree program in psychology, with a concentration in applied behavior analysis. She is a career coach with Preferred Alternatives.

Kara B. Still '04M made her directorial debut with the film *Altared*. She is self-employed as a script supervisor in Wilmington.

Julia Strachan '04 is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in performing arts management at the N.C. School of the Arts. This summer she was a communications/development intern with Theatre Communications Group in Manhattan, N.Y.

Lauren Hoke '05 was promoted to division coordinator of The Executive Staffing Group. She resides in Raleigh.

Jim Phillips '05 earned a Master of Arts degree in English from NC State University. He is an English instructor at Aldern Academy in Siler City, N.C.

Maghan Gerrald Bender '06 is an administrator at Atlantic Wealth Advisors.

Whitney Fauntleroy '06 is interim youth director at Winter Park Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

Matt Mumpower '06 is an account coordinator with the Goss Agency in Asheville.

Corey Heim '06 is the chief operating officer with Dry Corp, a Wilmington-based company that manufactures surgical latex sleeves that provide waterproof protection for casts, bandages and prosthetics.

Concluding her first season as a professional golfer, **Stephanie Otteson '06** of Wilson qualified for an exemption for 2008 Duramed FUTURES Tour.

John Raynor '06 was named the South Atlantic League's Most Valuable Player for the 2007 season. A member of the Greensboro Grasshoppers, he was recognized by *Baseball America* as the league's best and fastest base runner.

Shelley J. Smith '06 is an investigative reporter for the *Avery Journal-Times* in Avery County.

Luba Zakharov '06M won a scholarship to attend the Washington Cultural Congress, an Artist Trust conference supporting art at its source, April 23-25, 2007, in Leavenworth, Wash.

Roey Rosenblith '07 is president of Cape Fear Biofuels.

WEDDINGS

Sara E. Marks '86 and George F. Bason Jr. on April 21, 2007. Sara is a marketing analyst with GlaxoSmithKline in Research Triangle Park. The two reside in Raleigh.

Laura M. Medlin '93 and Maj. Timothy D. Forrest on May 5, 2007. She is an attorney with LaBarge, Campbell & Lyon LLC in Chicago.

Judd P. Tracy '96 and Marlayna Neste on March 31, 2007. Judd is a loan officer with Harbourside Community Bank. They reside in Bluffton, S.C.

Christina B. DiGiovanna '97 and Kevin Short on March 31, 2007. Christina is a fifth grade math and science teacher at Sangaree Intermediate School in Summerville, S.C.

Robyn S. Staup '98 and Rusty Sweet on July 7, 2007. She is the earth/life sciences coordinator with Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton, Ohio.

Marissa W. Sizemore '98 and Jonathan Virtuoso on June 16, 2007. She is a program manager for corporate readiness with Blackbaud in Charleston, S.C.

Tammy R. Dozier '99 and **Barry F. Scott '99** on March 31, 2007. Tammy is a licensed practical nurse at Autumn Care of Myrtle Grove.

Jonathon Jeffries '99 and Rosie Kwok on August 11, 2007. Jonathon is a business analyst with Georgia Tech.

Arlene Gillings '00 and John O. Price on May 13, 2006. Arlene is a CAP case manager/social worker with New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Anne Mason '00 and Charles Sutton on July 7, 2007. Anne is studying film production and acting. They reside in Durham.

Christina Attinger '01 and **Jeremy E. Lamm '02** on May 27, 2006. Christina is a Spanish teacher at St. Coleman Catholic School, and Jeremy is the southeast Florida account representative for Ideacom Healthcare Communications of Florida. They reside in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Karrie M. Bartlett '01 and Joshua S. Tilley on June 9, 2007. Karrie is an administrative assistant for men's basketball officiating and public relations/marketing with the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Lori Fuller '02 and Gene Besaw on Oct. 21, 2006. They reside in Creedmoor, N.C.

Allison C. Richardson '05 and William C. Erwin on May 19, 2006. Allison is an account manager with MTI Marketing in Carlsbad, Calif.

Lindsey E. Floyd '05 and Randy VanHouten on May 19, 2007. They reside in Nashville, N.C.

Cassidy Deaton '05 and Daniel Sanford on July 21, 2007. Cassidy is a registered nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit at Morton Plant Mease Hospital. They reside in Tampa, Fla.

Bridgette P. Mooza '05 and Christopher T. Bray on June 16, 2007.

Cheryl Blake '06M and **Matthew Price '05M** on March 8, 2007. Cheryl and Matthew are pursuing their doctoral degrees in literature at Florida State University.

Andrea Lewis '06 and Tim C. Winters on May 5, 2007. Andrea is a marketing assistant with Gregory Poole Equipment Company. They reside in Raleigh.

BIRTHS

To **Kim H. Gardner '83** and his wife Geri, a daughter, Karsten Rae, on Jan. 14, 2007. Kim is a project manager for middle Tennessee with Alfred Williams and Company.

To **Joseph Collins '91** and his wife Kristina Graff, a daughter, Celeste Maritza, on Dec. 25, 2006. Joseph is self-employed as an actor.

To **Luther Jett '93** and his wife Laura, a daughter, Lainey, on Sept. 7, 2006. Luther works in information technology with Wachovia Bank.

To **Wendy S. Locante '93** and her husband Craig, a daughter, Sylvie Sabine, on April 3, 2007. They reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

To **James E. Hicks '95** and his wife Nicole, twins, Georgia Margaret and Harrison Alexander, on May 17, 2006. They join twin sisters Katherine and Caroline.

To **Steve '96** and **Liz Longphre Elliott '96, '98M**, a daughter, Penny Rose, on Sept. 6, 2006. Steve is an assistant professor in the UNCW Department of Health and Applied Human Sciences, and Liz is a research analyst with the UNCW Center for Marine Science.

To **Devon Jones Mann '96** and her husband Morgan, a daughter, Hollis, on April 20, 2007. Devon is a biology instructor at the College of Lake County. They reside in Grayslake, Ill.

To **Amanda Herman Pollock '96** and her husband Brad, a daughter, Emily Claire, in August 2006.

To **Lisa Eller Taylor '96** and her husband Scott, a daughter, Jessica Renea, on Feb. 2, 2007. The family resides in High Point.

To **Donald S. Luquire '97** and his wife Shannon, a son, Oliver Chase, on March 29, 2007. Donald is a regional sales manager with Advanced Homecare. They reside in New Bern.

To **Kathryn Underwood Melton '97** and her husband Brent, a son, Harrison Pollock, on June 9, 2007. Kathryn started her own law firm in January 2007 focusing on estate planning and advocacy for people with disabilities.

To **Gregory K. '98** and **Alison Setzer Bellamy '05M**, a daughter, Ella Victoria, on Sept. 28, 2006. Alison is a first grade teacher with Pender County Schools, and Gregory is employed by Southport Boatworks.

To **John K. '98** and **Kalicia Parrish Gurley '98** a son, Caygen Trace, on Feb. 20, 2007. John is a supervisor with Wyeth. They reside in Selma.

To **William "Trip" '98** and **Holly Hunt Kolkmeier '96**, a son, Wyatt Lee, on Jan. 24, 2007. Holly is a stay-at-home mother. Trip is a research fisheries biologist with National Marine Fisheries Service. They reside in Emerald Isle.

To **Emma Kelly Washington '98, '00M** and her husband Troy, a son, Noah, on Aug. 10, 2007. They reside in Greensboro.



Bellamy



Edwards



McGarry



Medeiros



Walters



Collins



Leary



Saylor

To **Kelly Allen '99** and her husband Brit Young, a daughter, Savannah Blaire, on May 30, 2007. Kelly is an administrative assistant with Lee Christian School in Sanford.

To **Marty Minchin '99M** and her husband Christopher Metzl, a daughter, Molly Caroline, on Jan. 20, 2007.

To **Stephanie Winslow Walters '99** and her husband Brannon, twin sons, Liam and Charles, on March 28, 2007. They reside in Los Angeles.

To **Asa H. '00** and **Amanda Stanfield Bullard '02**, a daughter, Cassie Amanda, on April 11, 2007. Asa is a manager with Bullard Furniture in Fayetteville.

To **Lori Worley Medeiros '00, '03** and her husband Dennis, a daughter, Laila Amelia, on May 3, 2007. Lori is a serious adverse event coordinator with PPD Inc. in Wilmington.

To **Marie Harrod Robinson '00** and her husband Adam, a son, Brody Adam, on Aug. 6, 2007.

To **Amy Ballentine Baum '01** and her husband Nicholas, a daughter, Bonnie Claire, on May 29, 2007. Amy is a fourth grade teacher with Portsmouth Public Schools in Virginia.

To **Thiane Carter Edwards '01** and her husband Antwoine, a daughter, Elizabeth Grace, on Feb. 5, 2007. Thiane is a senior contract compliance specialist with Ken Weeden and Associates.

To **S. Chad '01M** and **Tiffany Calhoun Daniel '01**, a son, Brendan Kasay, on Dec. 18, 2006. Tiffany is a clinical data manager with PPD, and Chad is the owner of Breakforth! They reside in Burgaw.

To **Daniel P. '01** and **Michelle Smith McGarry '01**, a son, Chase Patrick, on Feb. 26, 2007. Daniel is an assistant principal with the Upper Darby School District in Pennsylvania, and Michelle is a realtor with Century 21 Alliance.

To **Chad N. '03** and **Jodi Francis Leary '02**, a son, Ezekiel Francis, on May 29, 2007. Chad is a science teacher and athletic coach at Manteo High School. Jodi is a school nurse at Manteo Elementary School.

To **Maegan R. Rountree '03**, a daughter, Evan Elyse, on April 21, 2007. Maegan teaches fourth grade at Kimberley Park Elementary School in Winston-Salem.

To **Lisa Fogleman Erisman '06** and her husband William, a daughter, Charlotte Anne, on March 29, 2007. They reside in Olympia, Wash.

To **James R. Hinkson '06M** and his wife Amy, a son, Jack Allan, on March 5, 2007. James is employed by Bancorp-South.

To **Patrick G. Riley '06** and his wife Heather, a son, John Northup, on May 29, 2007. Patrick is a commercial broker with Maus, Warwick, Matthews & Co. in Supply.

To **Rosemary Segasture Saylor '06** and her husband David, a son, Elijah Felix, on July 3, 2006. Rosemary is a sales rep with Chadsworth Columns in Wilmington.

FRIENDS

Doretha M. Stone, 66, died on July 21, 2007. Doretha was an associate professor of nursing at UNCW. Prior to her retirement, she served as senior level coordinator and interim associate dean in the School of Nursing.

UNC Wilmington alumnus
Jor-El Caraballo
(top, in doorway) is touring the
country with a rape prevention
group called "One In Four".
Fellow tour members are,
left to right, Dan Mollison
(University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign), James
Ambrose and JT Newberry
(College of William and Mary).



Caring enough to change lives

THE NUMBERS ARE ALARMING

by Joy C. Davis '07

According to national statistics, one in four women will survive a rape or attempted rape before the end of her college experience, but only around 30 percent report the incidents to police.

Men often gloss over such numbers, believing they are of no value to their sex. However, Jor-El Caraballo '07 noted, "Although most people view rape as a women's issue, the reality is most rapes are committed by men."

Caraballo is empowering colleges and military bases across the country to challenge rape myths, support sexual assault survivors and promote a safe environment. He is one of four male peer educators on the One in Four (1in4) National RV Tour, a non-profit program featured in *O! Magazine* and *Cosmo Girl*, that aims to prevent rape with educational programming supported by sound research.

Caraballo learned about 1in4 through his internship with the UNCW Collaboration for Assault Response & Education (CARE), a program "dedicated to intervening on a broad spectrum of violent behaviors, including sexual assault, relationship abuse, stalking and harassment" with crisis intervention, empathetic consultation, educational programming and partnerships with community organizations.

"It was perfect when he joined us, because at the time, we were hiring Adam Tate to start the men's program, and they were able to connect on men's issues," said Rebecca Caldwell, director of substance abuse prevention and education, CROSSROADS and CARE programs.

Tate, UNCW coordinator for men's programs and a former member of the University of Virginia 1in4 student chapter, said, "I learned as much from Jor-El as he learned from me. When he helped me with the Men's Leadership Summit and Take Back the Night, I discovered he was a great presenter and wonderful person who really thinks outside the box."

In 2007, when the 1in4 tour visited UNCW, "someone commented that Jor-El stayed through both presentations and seemed captivated," said Caldwell. Impressed by the presentation's innovative "men educating men" approach, Caraballo immediately began to research the group.

"I am so proud to say I am a UNCW graduate when I am on that stage presenting. If it weren't for CARE, I would not have known about One in Four," he said.

Although Caraballo's story is unique, the impact CARE has on its peer educators is not uncommon.

CARE and CROSSROADS, UNCW's substance abuse prevention program, are staffed by students who Caldwell, the 2007 UNCW Staff Award of Excellence recipient, called "our best ambassadors."

They spread the messages constantly just by being who they are and ultimately gather skills they can carry into the workforce," she said.

"A lot of students volunteer here, and their eyes are opened to how great it is to help change people's lives before they have a consequence. From the beginning, Jor-El expressed an interest in becoming a counselor, but he did not initially think about a career path in prevention."

Caraballo confirmed, "CARE changed the course of my life. Now I have the honor of changing people's lives."

"I will never, ever forget the first time I spoke with a female survivor after the program. It was a moment when everything came full circle. It really solidified that this is where I am meant to be," he said.

UNCW aims to establish a 1in4 student chapter of male rape prevention educators by spring 2008.

For more information, visit www.uncw.edu/care and www.oneinfourusa.org.

THROUGH THE EYES OF FEMALE VETERANS: Holmstedt explores combat in Iraq

by Joy C. Davis '07

On Sept. 11, 2001, author Kirsten Holmstedt '06M watched in shock as the World Trade Center Twin Towers crumbled to the ground at the hands of terrorists.

In the months that followed, the United States entered into a war in which more American women would serve in combat roles than ever before – four times the number in Desert Storm.

Consumed by the humanity of the conflict, Holmstedt remained glued to the media and combated questions about how she would cope if she were one of the young female soldiers on CNN.

“I wanted to know how they dealt with combat,” she said. “I really wanted to put myself in their boots.”

This desire led Holmstedt down a path she never anticipated: She became the public voice for this unique community in *Band of Sisters: American Women at War in Iraq*, a nonfiction book detailing the experiences of 11 female veterans.

In 2002, 9/11 still echoing in her mind, Holmstedt made the life-altering decision to enter the UNCW Master of Fine Arts program.

“When I started *Band of Sisters* as my graduate thesis, I didn’t have the experience of writing a book. However, I was passionate and highly motivated. They (MFA professors) built on what I had, and gave me the tools to develop as a writer. They even helped me find my agent and publisher.”

Nationally recognized for fostering a rigorous, supportive environment in which writers can grow as artists and individuals, the MFA program was recently named by *The Atlantic* as one of the five top innovative/unique programs in creative writing.

Additionally, *Band of Sisters* is one of the more than 20 published UNCW MFA student books.

In *Band of Sisters*, Holmstedt describes the impact of her thesis advisor, Department of Creative Writing chair Philip Gerard, as “monumental,” noting “a direct link between his confidence in me ... and my ability to make this book a reality.”

With Gerard as her mentor, Holmstedt composed a work unlike previous publications on female veterans. *Band of Sisters* has gained national attention because it does not debate the role of women in combat or focus on sexual discrimination in the military. Instead, it examines war through the eyes of female individuals with universal emotions, challenges and fears.

“She stood up to some extreme criticism early on for this vision,” said Gerard. “Initially these women did not want to stand out and rock the boat. They did not want to impact the very tight military community they valued, but Kirsten believed in their stories and bravely pursued them.”

In addition to her full-time job as a staff writer for Coastal Carolina Community College, Holmstedt spent thousands of hours traveling cross-country to interview female veterans and their families. The results have been phenomenal.

Ten days after the first print, *Band of Sisters* went into its second print. Hundreds of people have

gathered at book signings to learn more about women like Army Spec. Rachelle Spors, one of many women severely wounded by improvised explosive device (IEDs); Lt. Col. Polly Montgomery, a mother and the first female commander of a U.S. Air Force combat squadron; and Marine Capt. Vernice Armour, the first female African American combat pilot in the history of the Department of Defense.

“Women of all ages e-mail me daily to say, ‘Thank you.’ Others say, ‘You must be so proud of yourself.’ But I am just so proud for these amazing women I admire,” said Holmstedt.

Wendy Brenner, creative writing associate professor, said, “It’s exciting we are able to serve the community through her. We have so many military students and community members in our area. Serving locally is a big part of UNCW’s mission and that is exactly what this book has done.”

Holmstedt hopes to continue serving the community by developing a new book on women and the military from a different angle. For her, “it is all about the women, all about the band of sisters.”

More information about Holmstedt and her book is available online at www.bandofsistersbook.com.



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Calendar

University & Alumni

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

December

- 1-2 Wilmington Symphony Orchestra *
- 2 UNCW Chamber Singers and Concert Choir
- 2 Wise Alumni House Holiday Open House
- 5 Last Day of Classes
- 7-14 Final Exams
- 8 North Carolina Symphony *
- 14 Senior Sankofa
- 15 Commencement
- 19 Wilmington College Alumni Luncheon
- 21 *It's a Wonderful Life* Screening
- 24-31 Winter Break
UNCW Offices Closed

January

- 1 New Years Day
UNCW Offices Closed
- 4 Spring Semester Begins
- 9 First Day of Classes
- 16 Wilmington College Alumni Luncheon
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
UNCW Offices Closed
- 23 Wilmington Concert Association *
Teatro Lirico d'Europa
- 26 Alumni Association Tealating Social

February

- 2 UNCW Alumni Association
Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 Alumni Awards Banquet and Scholarship Endowment Gala
- 9 Homecoming - Seahawks vs. James Madison Dukes
Alumni Association Tealating Social
- 9 Wilmington Symphony Orchestra *
- 10 North Carolina Symphony *
- 11 UNCW Leadership Lecture Series *
Jamaica Kincaid
- 17 Chamber Music Wilmington
Eric Pritchard, violin
- 20 Wilmington College Alumni Luncheon
- 21-24 UNCW Theatre Presents
Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party*
- 26 Cameron School Alumni Mixer

March

- 1 Alumni Association Tealating Social
- 1-9 Spring Break
- 7-10 CAA Tournament
- 11 Arts in Action *
Garth Fagan Dance
- 15 Crew Club Reunion
- 18 Wilmington Concert Association *
Empire Brass Quintet
- 19 Wilmington College Alumni Luncheon
- 21 Good Friday Holiday
UNCW Offices Closed
- 24 UNCW Leadership Lecture Series *
Stephen Lewis
- 28 Communication Studies Day
- 30 Chamber Music Wilmington
Tamara Matthews, soprano

April

- 1 UNCW Wind Symphony
- 9 UNCW Presents *
Angelique Kidgo
- 10-13 UNCW Theatre Presents
Moliere's *Scapino*
- 13 North Carolina Symphony *
- 16 Wilmington College Alumni Luncheon
- 18 UNCW Presents *
Lila Downs
- 26 Wilmington Symphony Orchestra *
- 28 Last Day of Classes
- 28 UNCW Wind Symphony

★ Performances are at 8 p.m. in Kenan Auditorium. Events may require reservations or charge for admission. For tickets and additional information call 910.962.3500 or 800.732.3643. A complete list of UNCW cultural programs are online at www.uncw.edu/arts.

William Franklin '94 developed and raised these pumpkins on family land in Wilmington, N.C. He crossbred several types of pumpkins to produce varieties with rich colors, high gloss and a long shelf life.

Photo by Jamie Moncrief



HOME 2008 COMING Feb 8-11

Annual UNCW Alumni Association Awards Banquet and Scholarship Endowment Gala

Friday Feb. 8, Warwick Center Ballroom

Honoring three award recipients:

Young Alumnus of the Year: Bill Mayew '97, '98M (former basketball star)

Citizen of the Year: Tyrone "Ty" Rowell

Alumni of the Year: Herbert Fisher '53 and Sylvia Fisher '50

Homecoming TEALgate

Saturday Feb. 9, 2008, outside Trask Coliseum

Men's basketball – Seahawks vs. James Madison Dukes.

visit www.uncw.edu/alumni for more information, for sponsorship opportunities or to make reservations.

share YOUR news

We would like to hear about your personal and professional accomplishments. Please use this form to share your news. The information may be used in a future issue of *UNCW Magazine*.

Mail form to: *UNCW Magazine*, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403-5993.

Or e-mail your information with a high quality digital image to alumni@uncw.edu.

You can also submit your information from the alumni Web site, www.uncw.edu/alumni.

☐ News/promotion/honors ☐ Wedding ☐ Birth ☐ Address change

Name _____
First Middle Last Maiden

Class year _____ ☐ Bachelor's degree ☐ Master's degree Major _____

Spouse _____
First Middle Last Maiden

UNCW graduate ☐ No ☐ Yes Class year/degree/major _____

Street address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____ E-mail _____

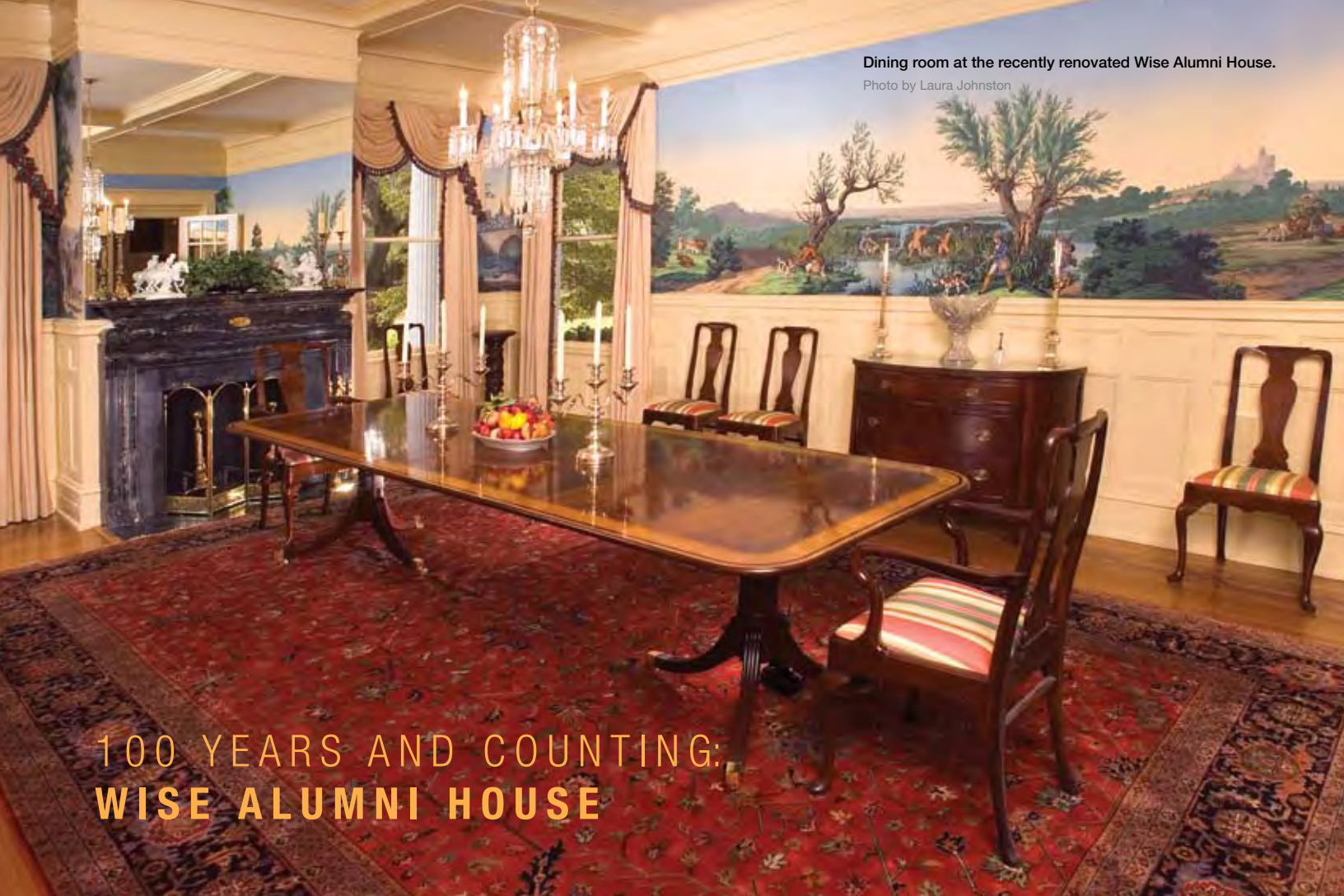
Employer _____ Position _____

Spouse's employer (if UNCW grad) _____ Position _____

News/promotion/honors _____

Marriage: Date of marriage _____ (Do not send prior to marriage)

Birth: ☐ Son ☐ Daughter Child's name _____ Date of birth _____



Dining room at the recently renovated Wise Alumni House.

Photo by Laura Johnston

100 YEARS AND COUNTING: WISE ALUMNI HOUSE

With a new slate roof and extensive interior renovations, the Wise Alumni House is ready for the next 100 years. Take a virtual tour of this historic masterpiece at www.uncw.edu/wisehousetour. Home to the UNCW Alumni Association, the house and its story (page 22) illustrate the powerful impact alumni can have by working together. Make a difference at your alma mater – attend campus events, volunteer as a mentor, donate to a scholarship. Visit www.uncw.edu/giveonline to start giving back today.

ATTENTION RECIPIENT: If the address label lists someone who no longer lives here, please send the correct name/ address to: UNCW Advancement Services, 601 S. College Road, Wilmington, NC 28403 or alumni@uncw.edu.



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

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